(d) The 1993 Act has not set any deadline. The Government have prepared an Action Plan for the eradication of Manual Scavenging by December, 2007.

Welfare of destitute people

†416, SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided by Government to NGOs for the welfare of destitute people during the last three years;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that out of these NGOs many of them never existed in past nor do exist even at present;

(c) if so, the details of such organizations and the quantum of financial assistance provided to them alongwith the dates when such assistance was provided; and

(d) the details of the destitute people in the country State-wise and number of people benefited by these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing 'An Integrated Programme for Street Children' for children who are destitute and without the care and support of their families. Also for Older Persons, old age homes and medical services are provided under the Integrated Programme for Older Persons. Grant-in-aid released under these schemes in the last three years is as under:

Name of the Scheme	Rupees in Crore		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (Upto November, 2004)
An Integrated Progamme for Street Children	11.00	9.90	5.81
An Integrated Programme for Older Persons	16.50	15.84	6.75

(b) and (c) Assistance to Non-Governmental Organisations is released only on the basis of satisfactory inspection report being received from respective State Government/nodal agency. No instance of misutilisation of grant-in-aid released under these schemes has come to notice in the last three years.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) While there is no authentic estimate of destitute people in the country, the number of beneficiaries under the schemes mentioned in part (a) during the last three years is as under:—

Name of the Scheme	No. of beneficiaries		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (Upto November, 2004)
An Integrated Progamme for Street Children	37,195	43,556	25,734
An Integrated Programme for Older Persons	78,225	1,58,113	30,100

National Policy on tribals

417. SHRIMATI S.G INDIRA:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to bring a National Policy on tribals;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government had sought the suggestions and views of NGOs and other working organizations in the field of tribals welfare;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government had decided to hold four regional level seminars prior to finalisation of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PR. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes, Please.

(b) to (d) The draft policy on tribals has been placed on the Ministry's web-site *www.tribal.nic.in* earlier for eliciting suggestions and views of NGOs, Experts and People's representatives, etc. In a similar way, additional draft policy on tribals has been circulated for eliciting public opinion. Prior to finalizing the tribal policy, the Ministry is organizing four zonal seminars and one national seminar at different places. One such regional seminar has been organized at Shimla on 18-19 November, 2004.